

September 26, 1960

Dr. Charles Phillips  
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Fort Detrick  
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Charlie:

I was pleased that George Derbyshire sent out some additional copies of the 1958 NRC Chemistry report that you had dug up for us. But I inadvertently discarded the briefing sheet (by Boldnan?) that accompanied the photocopy you sent me. Do you have another copy? It had some numbers on the natural background of bacteria in the atmosphere that I would like to have.

Besides this report, can you refer me to any other reviews or summaries on atmospheric organisms? (Not necessarily very high altitudes.)

I am starting to worry about the design of a multi-sample cultivator. The relevant data (for terrestrial equivalence) include not only the count of bacteria per unit volume of air, but also the weight of the dust this is associated with.

Would you think that 10 organisms in 100 $\gamma$  per liter was reasonable (i.e., 10<sup>5</sup> organisms per gram of airborne dust)? Where would this - or any more correct figure - be best documented?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/jh